GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2284
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2007
COMMUNICATION NETWORK
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether still there are no proper communication facilities such as telephone, internet and postal service in the villages;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken to make proper arrangements for the said facilities;

(d) the present policy for opening sub-post offices in villages;

(e) the total number of post offices proposed to be opened in the villages of Uttar Pradesh; and

(f) the total number of villages in Saharanpur district selected for opening of post offices?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) & (b) The details of the telephone, internet and postal service in the villages of the country are given below:-

Telephones

The work of providing telecom facilities to uncovered villages has been taken up under Bhart Nirman Programme. 16,302 villages remain to be linked with communication network as on 30.9.2007. This excludes villages having population less than 100, lying in thick forests/ naxalite areas.

Internet

"Internet on dial-up" can be accessed in most of the villages where telephone facility exists.

Postal Service

Postal service facilities in terms of delivery of mail, collection of letters from letter boxes and sale of stamps/stationary at the doorstep of customers is available in all the villages.

(c) & (d) Following steps are being taken to make proper arrangements for provision of telephone, internet and postal service facilities in the villages:-

Telephone

Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) has entered into an agreement with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in November 2004 for provision of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in remaining 66,822 unconnected villages of the country. This excludes villages having population less than 100, lying in thick forest areas/naxalite infested areas etc. As on 30th September 2007, out of these 66,822 villages, 50,520 eligible villages have already been provided with VPT facility and the remaining 16,302 villages will be provided with VPT by June, 2008.

Internet

BSNL has planned to install equipment in 23,000 rural exchanges in phase-I rural development plan, from which broadband facility shall be extended to 25,000 villages. Additionally, BSNL is also planning to provide wireless broadband through WiMax technology in 1000 blocks, which is expected to cover 25,000 villages by June 2008.

Postal Service

Post offices are opened subject to fulfillment of prescribed norms of distance, population, income and availability of resources. All the

villages where opening of separate Post Office is not justified are provided basic Postal facilities through the nearest existing Post Office/Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendra. Departmental Sub Post Offices in rural areas are opened/Gramin Dak Sewak Branch Post Offices (GDSBOs) are upgraded into Departmental Sub Post Offices provided the conditions of minimum workload of 5 hours and permissible limit of loss of Rs. 2,400 per annum (for normal areas) and Rs. 4,800 per annum (for hilly and tribal areas) are fulfilled.

(e) During the financial year 2007-08 it is proposed to open 12 Gramin Dak Sewak Branch Post Offices in the villages of Uttar Pradesh. Moreover, it is also proposed to provide 30 Departmental Sub Offices in rural/urban areas of Uttar Pradesh either by upgradation of GDSBOs or opening of new Departmental Sub Offices.

(f) In the villages of Saharanpur District of Uttar Pradesh there is no justified demand pending for opening of a new post office.